

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

18 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT : Probable Communist Reactions to the (12 July 1963)  
Proposed Elint Reconnaissance of the Pyongyang  
SAM Site

1. We believe that no serious consequences would result from the proposed mission. Retaliation against South Korea or US interests elsewhere is unlikely. If the North Koreans had achieved a shootdown they probably would publicize the affair and accuse the US of various nefarious intelligence activities. The noise level would depend in some measure on whether or not they had been able to find the wrecked drone. If they did not achieve a shootdown they might decide not to publicize the incident, since it would advertise their own unwillingness to take any strong retaliatory measures.

2. In the event of a shootdown and retrieval of the wreck, Soviet and Chinese reaction would probably be no more than propagandistic. If the Soviets were determined to mount a great campaign against the US because of overflights and intelligence activities in other areas (particularly Cuba) then the Korean incident would provide some further ammunition. It is possible that the incident would

25X1A [REDACTED] 4473-63  
Copy 1 of 3  
Page 1 of 2

SECRET



~~SECRET~~

alert the Soviets to a new device in US intelligence efforts and might lead them to increase their preparedness for any similar mission elsewhere.

3. There is an outside chance that the incident might grow to more serious proportions, if the North Koreans were to shoot down the RB-47 Recorder aircraft. The more frequent the missions, the more likely the North Koreans would recognize the true purpose of the operation and decide to shoot down the RB-47, even though it is outside the 12-mile limit.

4. At the present time, such an operation as proposed would probably increase North Korean reluctance to surrender the recently downed US helicopter pilots.

*Sn*

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

25X1A

[REDACTED] 4473-63  
Copy 1 of 3  
Page 2 of 2

~~SECRET~~

(CLASSIFICATION)

Handle Via Indicated Controls



25X1A

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by U. S. personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive information in the designated control channels. Its security must be maintained in accordance with regulations pertaining to the designated controls.

This document contains information referring to Projects:

.....

**SECRET**

(CLASSIFICATION)